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**Ptelea.**—A revision of this genus as it occurs in western and southwestern United States and Mexico has been published by GREENE.<sup>13</sup> Under his treatment the genus has become rich in species, 59 being recognized, of which 55 are new. Three natural groups are defined, each with its own geographical range: (1) species (37) with chestnut-brown twigs and prevaillingly glaucescent or bluish-green foliage; (2) species (13) with almost white twigs and yellow green foliage; (3) species (9) with cinnamon-colored twigs, a peculiar hue and venation of foliage, and narrow-winged or even wingless samaras.—J. M. C.

**Anatomy of Commelinaceae.**—HOLM has published an elaborate memoir<sup>14</sup> dealing chiefly with the general morphology and anatomy of the Commelinaceae. The 17 species investigated represent the genera *Commelina* (5), *Aneilema*, *Tinantia*, *Tradescantia* (9), and *Weldenia*. The memoir is a mine of information which can be drawn upon by the future student of the group who is seeking to organize such details into general statements.—J. M. C.

**Genera Siphonogamarum.**—The eighth fascicle of DALLA TORRE and HARMS'S<sup>15</sup> list of the genera of seed plants concludes the genera of Compositae, 9629, *Thamnosseris* being the last one. The genera of uncertain affinity swell the number of genera to 9810. There is also a supplement of 51 pages, and the general index of names is begun.—J. M. C.

#### NOTES FOR STUDENTS.

**Ancient Araucarians.**—In Jurassic and Cretaceous deposits there occur abundant remains of leafy branches of coniferous plants that have been described under the generic name *Brachyphyllum*. The genus has been referred by various authors to *Araucarineae*, to *Cupressineae*, and to *Taxodineae* (near *Sequoia*); but in a recent paper by JEFFREY and HOLLICK<sup>16</sup> it is shown from an investigation of the internal structure that here can be no doubt as to its Araucarian affinities. In the same paper *Protodammara* is described as a new genus, to include certain Cretaceous cone scales that had been referred to the living genus *Agathis* (*Dammara*). Certain lignites associated with both *Brachyphyllum* and *Protodammara* were also found to be Araucarian; and the conclusion is reached that these lignites represent the wood of the trees which bore the leafy

<sup>13</sup> GREENE, EDWARD L., The genus *Ptelea* in the western and southwestern United States and Mexico. *Contrib. U. S. Nat. Herb.* 10:49-79. 1906.

<sup>14</sup> HOLM, THEODORE, *Commelinaceae*. Morphological and anatomical studies of the vegetative organs of some North and Central American species. *Memoirs Nat. Acad. Sci.* 10:159-192. *pls.* 1-8. 1906.

<sup>15</sup> DALLA TORRE, C. G. DE and HARMS, H., *Genera Siphonogamarum ad systema Englerianum conscripta*. Fasc. 8. pp. 561-640. Leipzig: Wilhelm Engelmann. 1906. M6.

<sup>16</sup> HOLLICK, A., and JEFFREY, E. C., Affinities of certain Cretaceous plant remains commonly referred to the genera *Dammara* and *Brachyphyllum*. *Amer. Nat.* 40: 189-215. *pls.* 1-5. 1906.